

## 'GRAFTERS' IS INSTANT HIT AS LIBERTY SHOW

"The Grafters," the second offering of the Hughes Musical Comedy Company, is a much better show than the opening one in which the company appeared last week. The merry-makers at the Liberty last night gave a Monday audience a very pleasant evening and when the laughs had died away and the encores had ceased, those who braved the pouring rain to witness the performance—and there were hundreds of them—went away still chuckling and laughing.

This Hughes company is simply spilling over with clever specialties. In fact, there are more specialties than plots. The story of "The Grafters" is hung around the town of Watts, whose owner has been missing for a long time. Several designing persons have their eyes on Watt's property and go after it. The combination of the get-rich-quick gentry and the rural types, surrounded by considerable rural scenery, affords numberless opportunities for laugh-making, and the laughs come thick and fast. Also the specialties.

Bert Le Blanc, Frank Vack and Dave Nowlin, a troupe of grafters composed of a Jew, a Dutchman and a soft-spoken and genteel hobo, were often in the center of the funny stunts, and the part of a fair female Wallingford, known as Mrs. Graft, fell to Miss Gertrude St. Clair. Her duty was to pose as the widow Watts, and she succeeded admirably in conveying that daring, dashing widow effect supposed to go with feminine grafters of the city. Another high-toned grafter was Will Cheatham, the part being taken by Carlton Chase.

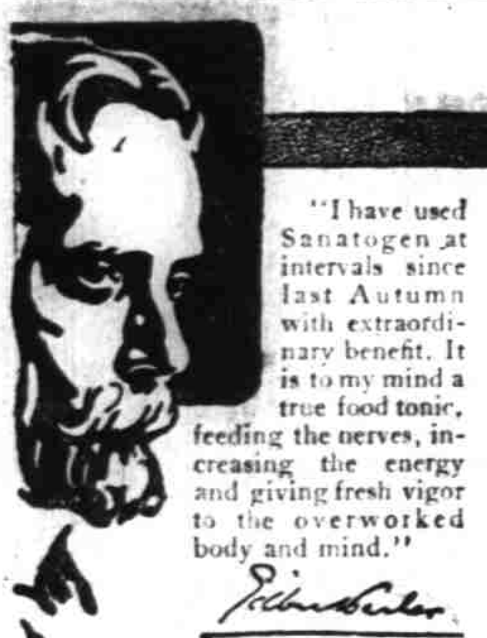
The chances for character work in this story are numberless, and the Hughes company made a splendid impression because of the meritorious work of such people as Dave Nowlin, Vack, Le Blanc and Harry Burgess. Burgess had small opportunity to show his worth last week, but in the role of the village constable he is now one of the bright spots of the bill, and his song in the second act, "The Village Constable," sprung into instant popularity and established him in the favor of Honolulu audiences. Little Miss Eugenie La Blanc has a "knockout" in the second act in an eccentric dance and song—two songs in fact. She was encoored after a golf caddy song and came back with a burlesque ballad describing in plaintive and flat high notes how "Heaven Will Help the Poo-oor Working Girl," following this up with some of the cleverest dancing Honolulu has ever seen, bettering even her performance of last week. The vaudeville lovers of the city look back to Duke Johnson as their standard in eccentric dancing. Well, Dave isn't any better than little Miss La Blanc was last night.

The whole second act is a continuous burst of laughter. There is one particularly delicious bit of dialogue between the Jew and the widow Graft, the Jew feeling himself being hooked by the charming female across the table from him and yet unable to resist her blandishments.

Several pretty scenic effects have been achieved, among them an illuminated set of swings in which the chorus pendulums through the air with a musical accompaniment. The idea isn't new but it is well done and the chorus handles itself well.

Frank Barker is given a small part as an ultra-polite French waiter, one of the many good bits of characterization, and Miss Teddy Martin has some scintillating chances at the spotlight—a chance or two. The end of the show is a riot, engineered through the instrumentality of Mr. Nowlin and Miss St. Clair. The song is "The Wild, Wild Farm," and they hand over a medley of farmyard sounds and sights that is amazingly funny and a remarkably good piece of imitation. Altogether, "The Grafters" is far ahead of the first show and proves that the Hughes company is striking its stride.

The cast:  
Sacramento Ike . . . Mr. Bert LaBlanc  
Lodi Mike . . . Mr. Frank Vack  
Bakersfield Pete . . . Mr. Dave Nowlin  
(Three Hobos)  
Will Cheatham, a grafter . . .  
Mr. Carlton Chase  
Rube Skaggs, the Village Policeman . . . Harry Burgess  
Mrs. Graft, who does a little grafting on her own hook . . .  
Miss Gertrude St. Clair  
Mazie, a caddy . . .  
Miss Eugenie La Blanc  
Grace, a visitor . . . Miss Teddy Martin  
Waiter . . . Mr. Frank Barker



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William Faustmann, late of Lelehu barracks, and now about to "pack his bundle," as he puts it, around the world as a civilian, is the man referred to. He has always been able to perform his duties, he says, and is still able if given a chance—on the battlefield or in the camp. He has a medal for excellent service in the Boxer War where he was wounded while carrying ammunition to the front, and he has in his possession many letters from commandants under whom he has served showing what caliber he is in the camp.

Being disqualified by age from enlisting he is, however, not without a dollar or two, having saved whenever it was possible, and he is quietly bidding good-bye to the United States army, an shaping his way for a new walk in life, maintaining that as he has for the space of twenty-five years carried the goods of Uncle Sam over turbulent fields in Arizona, Porto Rico, the Philippines, Alaska, and the Hawaiian Islands safely, he will be able to carry his own burden yet a little while longer on the mainland or elsewhere, even though at first it will be up-hill work for one who has been so long connected with the Army.

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